THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Major agricultural input subsidies given to farmers are fertilizers, irrigation, power and credit subsidy. Direct subsidy on urea is given by the Central Government to manufacturers of fertilizers to enable them to make available the fertilizer at reduced rates to the farmers. Urea is subsidised and sold at a uniform price of Rs. 3660/- per tonne throughout the country. In addition the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing, from Rabi 1992-93, a scheme of concessioin on sale of phosphatic and potassic (p&k) fertilizers to the farmers on the following:

(Rs. per tonne)

Product	*Rate of concession from* 1.4.1997
Indigenous DAP	3750
Imported DAP	2250
MOP	2000
SSP	600
Indigenous complexes	1149—2320

Since there is no mechanism to pay directly to the farmers, the subsidy/ concession is routed through the fertilizer suppliers. The provision in RE 1996-97 and in BE 1997-98 for the payment of subsidy on urea and concesson on p&k fertilizers is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	Subsidy on Urea	*Concession on p&k fertilizers*
RE 1996-97	6093	1674
BE 1997-98 (proposed)	7190	2000

Subsidies on irrigation and power are given indirectly by the state Government charging lower rates thatn that of actual costs.

All these subsidies/concession are available to all the categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers.

(c) and (d) No study has been conducted to verify whether such subsidies/concessions reach to the targeted population. However, it is not practically feasible to pay the subsidies/ concessions directly to the farmers whose number is nearly 105 millioin and spread over the length and breadth of the country. All the policy guidelines for payment of subsidies/concessions are done keeping in view the interest of the farmers.

Subsidy to Farmers of Punjab for ensuing Kharif Season

4425. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal tc give subsidy to farmers of Punjab by Government to enhance the yield of cotton and paddy during the coming Kharif season; and

(b) if so, the amount being given to Government of Punjab for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Incentives are being provided to the farmers of Punjab for increasing the productivity and production of cotton and paddy under Centrally Sponsored schemes on Intensive Cotton Development Programme and Integrated Cereals Developoment Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas respectively. The Schemes are proposed to be continued during 1997-98 with a proposed alloeation of over Rs. 600 Lakhs.